

Another Australian Volute

By TOM IREDALE.

When I described *Aulica quaesita* last year, I hoped the matter was settled, but almost at once a confusion of species has arisen. I have seen a large series which indicates that the words "the living shell is cream," added after the original description had been drawn up, were unfortunate. It is necessary therefore to amend the description and elucidate the matter before too much confusion can occur. The series of *quaesita* suggests that the holotype figured is somewhat aberrant as the large irregularity seen in the photo suggests. The figure of the paratype is an excellent one of the immature shell. A photograph of a fine adult is here given to clarify the situation. An emended description of this specimen of *quaesita* follows: Shell stout, spire rather small. Coloration creamy white, boldly marked with purple streaking, obscure bands sometimes massing medially, but never prominent. The subsutural markings are purple, well marked on the early whorls, and increasing with the shell's growth, descending irregularly across the whorl, the last whorl adorned with zigzag flashes, sometimes running together in places. The other species is narrower, more elongate, with spire longer, the basic coloration white, covered with a pale brown, persistent, very fine periostracum. The markings consist of small pale purplish spots, quite distinctly separate but very often becoming obsolete, so that albinos and semi-albinos are found. On the larger senile specimen figured the spots are vaguely defined so that a fully grown better marked specimen is also figured to show the markings more clearly. Four rows can be seen, a subsutural, a peripheral, and two below, the spots numbering eight to ten in each row. The inner lip is devoid of periostracum to a fairly large extent as seen in the figures. The adult has the outer lip thin, only slightly thickened, but senile specimens show thickening according to age, some runts showing coarse thickening, while some large shells show none. The type measures 79 mm. in height and 38 mm. in breadth. The type locality is eastern Arnhem Land, North Australia. I am naming this species

AULICA KELLNERI, sp. nov.

for Mr. Stephen Kellner, the well-known dealer, who acquired the series I have studied and who will present the specimens figured to the Australian Museum. It is hoped that Mr. Kellner will succeed in discovering many more novelties for the benefit of science, and especially Museums. The dealer has a much greater range of his efforts than any local museum can expect, and the shell collection of the British Museum (Natural History) has benefited much by dealers' co-operation. Thus the basic greatness of its collection is the collection made by Cuming, who wanted his great acquisition to pass into good keeping by putting a paper value on it for that purpose. Nearly one hundred thousand specimens were added by his efforts, and thousands of types and figured specimens were included. The history of the British Museum collections cites throughout the assistance of dealers as Parzudaki, Parreyss, Damon, Reeve, the Sowerbys, Fulton, Preston, &c., who generally allowed the museum first choice of rarities.

REFERENCE.

- Iredale, T. (1956).—A Northern Australian Volute. *Proc. Roy. Zool. Soc. N. S. Wales* 1954-55, pp. 76-77, fig. 1.



EXPLANATION OF PLATE.
Aulica kellneri (type), *A. kellneri* (paratype), *A. quacsita* (adult bee).